

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) - A custom rule system for creating custom rules, said custom rule system comprising in combination:

a processor,

a memory and a display both operatively coupled to said processor;

a plurality of operand and operation rule steps stored within said memory;

means for displaying to a user graphical ~~depictions~~ icons of said plurality of operand and operation rule steps stored within said memory as ~~an arrangement on a pallet on a first area of~~ said display such that said ~~arrangement pallet~~ is comprised of a plurality of individual graphical operand and operation ~~depictions~~ icons each corresponding to at least one of said operand and operation rule steps;

means for a user to sequentially select a plurality of icons from said pallet and arrange said plurality of sequentially selected icons as an ordered series of icons on a second area on said display; and

means for a user to interconnect said plurality of sequentially selected icons sequentially arranged as said ordered series of icons on said second area of said display for creating a custom rule comprised of said user selected and interconnected ordered series of icons created by the user, and

means for storing, in a database, said user created custom rule as an ordered series of operand and operation rule steps corresponding to said user selected and interconnected

ordered series of icons created by the user such that said operand and operation rule steps are processed in the same order in which they are stored in said database resulting in the processing of said user created custom rule in accordance with the same order as said user selected and interconnected ordered series of icons created by the user. ~~individual graphical operand and operation depictions for creating a custom rule comprised of operand and operation rule steps corresponding to the user selection of the at least two of said plurality of individual graphical operand and operation depictions.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended) - The system of claim 1 ~~further including a means for displaying a rules window on said display and wherein said means for the user to sequentially select and interconnect at least two of said plurality of individual graphical operand and operation depictions~~ sequentially selected icons includes means for a user to select, drag, and drop ~~the at least two of said plurality of sequentially selected icons from said pallet to said second area on said display and then interconnect said plurality of sequentially selected icon for creating said user created custom rule.~~ ~~individual graphical operand and operation depictions from said arrangement to said rules window and interconnect the at least two of said plurality of individual graphical operand and operation depictions in the rule window for creating said custom rule.~~

Claim 3 (currently amended) - The system of claim 1 further including an extraction module for extracting information engendered from sensors and a processor operatively coupled to both said extraction module and said database for processing said extracted information according to said user created custom rule having said ordered series of operand and operation rule steps having said same order as said user selected and interconnected ordered series of icons created by the user such that said processor processes each rule step in

said ordered series of operand and operation rule steps as they are stored in the database. 2
~~wherein said memory is a database wherein said operand and operation rule steps are individually stored as executable code and wherein said created custom rule is employed for decision making in an expert system by accessing said executable code for each said rule step that is both graphically depicted and selected creating said custom rule on said display.~~

Claim 4 (currently amended) - A custom rule system for creating custom rules, said system comprising in combination:

a database comprised of a multiplicity of operand and operation rule steps, each said rule step having specific executable code associated therewith;

a computer operatively coupled to said database and including a display for displaying to a user graphical depictions of said multiplicity of operand and operation rule steps stored within said database as an array of a multiplicity of individual graphical operand and operation depictions displayed within a first window on said display and each corresponding to at least one of said multiplicity of operand and operation rule steps;

means for displaying a rules window on said display;

means for a user to interface with said array displayed in said first window to select and place a plurality of said multiplicity of individual graphical operand and operation depictions from said array to said rules window as a user ordered series of selected and placed depictions; ~~for graphical display;~~ and

means for a user to interconnect said plurality of selected and placed depictions such that a custom rule is created by the user defined by said user ordered series of said user selected, placed, and interconnected depictions; and

means for storing, in said database, said user created custom rule as an ordered series of operand and operation rule steps corresponding to said by said user ordered series of said user selected, placed, and interconnected depictions; and

an extraction module for extracting information engendered from sensors and a processor operatively coupled to both said extraction module and said database for processing said operand and operation rule steps in the same order in which they are stored in said database resulting in the processing of said user created custom rule in accordance with the same order as said user ordered series of said user selected, placed, and interconnected depictions.

~~means for interconnecting said plurality of said multiplicity of individual graphical operand and operation depictions displayed in said rules window for creating a custom rule.~~

Claim 5 (currently amended) - The system of claim 4 further including a step reference stored within said database for referencing said specific executable code associated with each operand and operation rule step that corresponds to each of said plurality of selected and placed depictions ~~plurality of said multiplicity of individual graphical operand and operation depictions displayed in said rules window.~~

Claim 6 (currently amended) - The system of claim 5 further including means for providing a decision based upon said processing of said user created custom rule. ~~a processing means for processing said created custom rule by processing said referenced executable code.~~

Claim 7 (currently amended) - The system of claim 6 further including means for routing said decision based upon said processing of said user created custom rule to appropriate personal. ~~providing a decision based upon said processing of said created custom rule.~~

Claim 8 (currently amended) - The system of claim 7 further including a plurality of tables stored within said database, each having at least one record containing fields and a plurality of said fields including said step references each associated with each operand and operation rule step that corresponds to each of said user selected, placed, and interconnected depictions created by the user. ~~means for routing said decision based upon said processing of said created custom rule to appropriate personal.~~

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (currently amended) - A method for creating custom rules, the steps including:

- storing individual operand and operation rule steps comprised of executable code within a database coupled to a computer;
- depicting said operand and operation rules steps on a display of said computer as a graphical arrangement of operand and operation icons;
- creating a user defined custom rule by interfacing with said graphical arrangement of operand and operation icons for selecting and placing a plurality of said operand and operation icons from said graphical arrangement to a graphical window on said display in a user ordered series and interconnecting said icons placed within said graphical window for creating said user

defined custom rule defined by said user ordered series of selected, placed, and interconnected icons, and

storing, in said database, said user defined custom rule as an ordered series of operand and operation rule steps corresponding to said user ordered series of selected, placed, and interconnected icons and processing said rule steps in said ordered series of operand and operation rule steps in the same order in which they are stored in said database resulting in the processing of said user defined custom rule in accordance with the same order as said user ordered series of said user selected, placed, and interconnected icons.

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended) - The method of claim 15 further including the steps of extracting information engendered from sensors and providing a processor operatively coupled to both said extraction module and said database for processing said operand and operation rule steps in the same order in which they are stored in said database resulting in the processing of said user defined custom rule in accordance with the same order as said user ordered series of said user selected, placed, and interconnected icons.

~~A method for creating custom rules, the steps including:~~

~~selecting an asset for a custom rule;~~

~~defining input value steps to be used in the custom rule; each said input value step including at least one output;~~

~~depicting said input value steps in a graphical window of a graphical user interface of a computer;~~

~~depicting a matrix of graphically depicted operand and operation rule steps on said graphical user interface, each said graphically depicted operand and operation rule step having assembled rule step code associated therewith and stored within a database coupled to said computer;~~

~~selecting by a user an operand step from said matrix of graphically depicted operand and operation rule steps and placing said operand step into said graphical window, said operand step including at least one input;~~

~~defining a result that will be created when an input to said selected operand result step is true;~~

~~selecting by a user at least one operation step from said matrix of graphically depicted rule steps and placing said at least one operation step into said graphical window at a location interposed between said input value steps and said operand result step, said at least one operation step having at least one input and at least one output;~~

~~connecting by a user said at least one output of each of said input value steps to said at least one input of said operation step, and~~

~~connecting by a user said at least one output of said operation step to said at least one input of said result step for creating a custom rule.~~

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (canceled)